

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It has a consensus sequence of  $Cx_{2-4}Cx_{9-12}Cx_2Cx_4Cx_2Hx_5HxC$  (SEQ ID NO: 3), where x represents any amino acid. However, several other amino acids were found to be invariant in this domain. The conserved cysteine and histidine residues may form a single zinc-finger. Towards the amino-terminus, there are four cysteine residues (at amino acids 22, 26, 38 and 41, figure 2) that are conserved between OSISAP1 (SEQ ID NO: 2), AWPL (Acc no.NM019006, AJ251508) and ZNF216 (Acc no.AF062346, AF062071). This region is similar to the A20 (an inhibitor of cell death)-like zinc-fingers, which mediate self-association in A20 (De Valck et al., 1996). OSISAP1 also has about 51% identity over a stretch of 40 amino acids (56-96) to the human transcription factor NFκB p65 subunit consensus sequence (Ruben et al., 1991). The homology is towards the C-Terminus of the human protein, between amino acids 370 and 410.--